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REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Introduction

1. UNFPA is including the present report on the follow-up to the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) as part of the Executive Director's annual report in order to harmonize reporting arrangements with those of UNDP and UNICEF.

2. UNFPA contributed to the preparation of several JIU reports and reviews including on such topics as: status of implementation of results-based management in the United Nations system; knowledge management for results; standards of accommodation, travel time and rest stopovers; and procurement practices in the United Nations system. UNFPA also provided inputs for the development of a framework to prepare a series of reviews on human resources management in the United Nations system.

3. Of six completed JIU reports received in the course of 2003, three dealt with topics that were not of direct concern to UNFPA. UNFPA had no comments in the case of two additional reports, namely, Review of the United Nations budgetary process; and From the Optical Disk System to the Official Documents System (ODS): Status of implementation and evaluation. Issues raised in the report on the United Nations budgetary process will be kept in view in the Fund's continued efforts towards results-based budgeting and management. The findings of the report on the official documents system will also be of interest as UNFPA proceeds with developing a knowledge-sharing framework, particularly as regards efforts to consolidate access to the Fund's documents, publications and related resources. The JIU reports were shared with concerned UNFPA managers for their information and consideration. UNFPA did provide

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inputs and feedback on the JIU report on Achieving the universal primary education goal of the Millennium Declaration: New challenges for development cooperation. The following is a summary of those comments:

Achieving the universal primary education goal of the Millennium Declaration

Scope

4. The purpose of the report was to examine whether all the necessary conditions were in place to enable Member States to attain the universal primary education goal by 2015, so often stated in the past and most recently in the Millennium Declaration, and give children the world over their recognized right to complete quality primary schooling. The report analysed the factors that have prevented the international community from attaining this goal in the past as well as the strategies employed by bilateral donors, the European Commission, and the United Nations system, including the World Bank and the IMF.

Comments by UNFPA

5. UNFPA found that it would be important for the report to highlight the significance of the International Conference on Population and Development goal of universal access to quality reproductive health services by 2015, as essential for meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UNFPA underscored that the attainment of reproductive health and reproductive rights are fundamental to development, to the fight against poverty and to the attainment of MDG targets. Conversely, UNFPA also observed that reproductive ill health undermines development by, inter alia, diminishing the quality of women's lives; weakening and, in extreme cases, killing poor women of prime ages; and placing a heavy burden on families and communities. UNFPA was of the opinion that a model framework for the Education Development Charter (especially at country level) should make reference to the distinct contributions and comparative advantages of the various United Nations agencies in addressing the education goals.

Recommendation

6. **The Executive Board may wish to take note of the present report.**

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